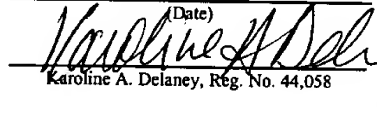


JKERN14.001APC

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Brits, Willem Hendrik	)	Group Art Unit Unknown
Appl. No.	:	Unknown (corresponding to PCT Application Number PCT/IB99/01747	)	
Filed	:	Herewith	)	I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on
For	:	ASSAYING	)	April 27, 2001 (Date)
Examiner	:	Unknown	)	 Karoline A. Delaney, Reg. No. 44,058

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph and heading, immediately following the title, as follows:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a national phase application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT Application Serial Number PCT/IB99/01747 filed on October 29, 1999 which claims priority to South African Application Serial Number 98/9866 filed on October 29, 1998 the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments